THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 7th April 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Mining work at Neyveli, South Arcot district.

* 331 *Q.*—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have begun the mining work at Neyveli, South Arcot district;

(*b*) whether the management of that work has been taken over by the Government or given to private companies; and

(*c*) if private companies, who they are?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) Yes, on an experimental scale.

" (*b*) The work is managed by Government.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN:—" In view of the fact that six years have been wasted so far and in view of the fact that the attention of the Government will be completely drawn towards the formation of the Andhra State, will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance that this work will not be delayed any further beyond the specified time-limit? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, there is no time-limit fixed for the work. I can assure the hon. Member that the work is being proceeded with very, very expeditiously."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN:—" Is it a fact that, in view of the immense liability involved in the work, the Government contemplate entrusting the work to such big capitalists as Tatas and Birlas? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" There is no such intention at the present moment, Sir."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—"நெய்வேலி சுரங்க சுற்றுப் புற வட்டாரங்களிலுள்ள கிராம ஜனங்களை அப்புறப்படுத்துவது சம்பந்தமாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு மகஜர் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டது. அது விஷயமாக என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்டது ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I don't think that anybody was evicted. I don't remember having received any mahazars."

[7th April 1953

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is labour recruited from the local area for carrying out this work, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Can the Government give us an assurance that they will not change their mind afterwards? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I can only answer for the present Government, Sir."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it a fact that technical assistance has been borrowed from some private companies to work this scheme, and if so, will the Government give us an idea when they will finish with this experimental measure and come to a proper and final conclusion? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the work is now being done departmentally. Mr. Ghosh, the Chief Engineer in charge, with the help of private contractors is doing departmentally all the excavation of the trial pit 550 feet by 550 feet by 180 feet with the help of machines lent by the Government of India."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் தெரியவில்லை என்று சொன்னார். அன்னதானம் பேட்டை, தாண்டவகுப்பம் கிராமங்களுடைய மக்களைத்தான் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன். இதைப்பற்றி பரிசீலனை செய்து அதற்கு தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பாரா என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I said I don't remember having got it. But I shall make enquiries."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Can the Hon. Minister tell us whether the labourers in the Neyveli mines are paid subsistence wages, and if so, at what rate? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" They are paid wages. I should like to have notice with regard to the rate."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the petitions regarding evictions would have been forwarded to the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue and not to the Minister for Industries and Labour. Therefore, will the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue tell us whether he had received any such petitions from the peasants of that area? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" May I suggest, Sir, that a separate question may be addressed to the Minister for Land Revenue? "